

# California State Journal of Medicine.

Published Monthly by the  
Medical Society of the State of California

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Office of the Journal, - - - 31 Post St. San Francisco

JANUARY, 1903.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The information has reached the JOURNAL from Sacramento, and in a manner that admits no doubt of its accuracy, that a bill has been sent to the **COVERT ATTACK ON MEDICAL LAW.** Legislature designed to secure new medical legislation. The exact title of the bill is not yet known, but in the information it was called, "A Bill to Regulate the Practice of Medicine, etc." As there is already a medical law in operation in this State, it is evident that this new bill must aim to in some way modify some features of the existent bill, or to entirely supplant it.

The JOURNAL knows perfectly well that no committee has been appointed from the Medical Society of the State of California looking to any addition to or modification of the present law, for the Society and those it represents are, so far, thoroughly satisfied with this law and the way its provisions have been administered. The Society believes, on excellent grounds, that this law is forcing a better preparation on the part of those who wish to practice medicine in California, and that it will, in not many years, elevate the standard of medical practitioners all over the State. Therefore, this new bill must be proposed by some who are inimical to the present law, and who consequently stand for *no* progress, *no* improvement, and even for deterioration.

The JOURNAL makes no suggestion as to who this person or group of persons may be—each reader can easily make his own inference; but whoever it is, he or they have arrogated to themselves the right to legislate for the whole profession. They are attempting to have laws of their own framing, suited to their own motives, thrust upon the entire medical body, and this the JOURNAL, in the name and interest of the profession of the State, resents. It is not to be tolerated that any one should presume to have personal or special legislation, either of which amounts to class legislation, foisted on the profession at large.

Under these circumstances the JOURNAL calls on the present Legislature, and on the Governor,

to let the medical law of to-day stand as it is. It has been in operation only sixteen months; it has given, as yet, no cause for criticism that was based on any defect in the law or its administration, and while it has been attacked by some, it is not at all to its discredit that it has drawn their fire. The JOURNAL refers to the complaints made of the Board of Examiners, which resulted in the editorial reference in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of the 4th of October, 1902, and of the second reference in the same journal, on the 25th of October, which latter, upon fuller information, corrected the impression the former would have engendered, and pronounced the complained-of examination entirely fair and reasonable.

This law, given us only by the last Legislature, has kept from the practice of medicine in California about one-third of those who have wished to come here, and has done it upon the grounds of the incompetency of the candidates, and as each candidate's examination paper is a State document as soon as it has passed into the hands of the Secretary of the Board of Examiners, it is, and always will be, easy to substantiate this statement. When the medical profession of California, together with their associates, in the drafting and the securing of the present law come before the Legislature and say that certain changes are wanted for further improvement, so that the standard of the profession may be raised still higher, then let the Legislature and the Governor listen; but until then let them turn a deaf ear always to those who seek to have changes or substitutions made in the law.

It is obvious that this new bill is proposed by some who are, in certain directions, active and secretly so. The new bill, whatever may be its exact form or intent, is an affront to every practitioner of medicine and surgery in California, and this affront must be resented. Each physician or surgeon is earnestly requested to address to the Assemblyman and Senator from his district letters stating that he does not want more medical legislation at this time, and to do this so that the bill may be stopped at once and the stand of California among those States with proper medical laws, properly conserving the interests of the people, may not be jeopardized.

As commonly applied to medicines, the word "patent" is almost invariably a misnomer. What are generally known as "patent medicines," the alcoholic and opiate nostrums, "bit-  
**WORD "PATENT" A MISNOMER.**      ters," "tonics," habit "cures," etc., are not patented; the names they bear, or the labels pasted on the packages, or both, are, however, protected by the patent or copyright laws of the country. If the preparations themselves were patented, and the nostrums thus truly